REMARKS

I. Amendments

Claims 13-19 have been withdrawn from consideration as allegedly being directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that the computer is registered in association with addressing information including the assigned IP address and the MAC address of the computer, and an IP address in a packet is translated based on the MAC address. The support for these amendments are found on page 12, line 18 to page 13, line 27, and page 16, line 27 to page 17, line 21 of the specification as originally filed.

Dependent claim 2 has been amended in view of the above amendments for the consistency.

Dependent claim 5 has been amended to depend on claim 4.

Dependent claim 10 has been amended to change "the network switching architecture" to —a network switching architecture" and "the switch port" to —a switch port—. Claim 11 has been amended to insert "the step of " before "identifying". These amendments were made to provide extra clarification.

No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), stating that these claims are anticipated by US Patent No. 6,591,306 to Redlich ("Redlich").

Claims 1 and 12

Redlich discloses an access router that allows a guest to plug a guest station into a foreign network and gain instant IP connectivity. The access router intercepts all

packets sent from the guest and replaces guest's IP address with a care-of IP address that belongs to the hosting organization (column 16, lines 15-18). As shown in Figure 9, the access router replaces the source IP address a.b.c.d with a local c/o address and sends the packet to the destination address w.x.y.z (column 16, lines 29-34).

In contrast, according to the present invention as claimed in amended claim 1, the address of a computer is translated based on the MAC address of the computer. Each client connected to the foreign network is assigned an IP address by the server. The server registers the computer and stores addressing information including the assigned IP address and the MAC address of the computer. The IP address of the client computer is translated from its original address to an assigned address based on the MAC address of the computer.

Each computer is configured for its home network and assigned an IP address that is available in the home network. Different networks may use same IP addresses. Thus, there is a possibility that multiple computers configured for different home networks use the same IP address. Assigning an IP address to each computer based on the MAC address of the computer as recited in claim 1 allows the server to handle the possibility of multiple computers using the same IP address.

Redlich's access router "associates a local c/o address with the guest's home-address, and writes it into the IP header's source-address filed" (column 21, lines 47-49). The c/o address is a local address and it does not relate to the MAC address of the guest computer. Redlich does not disclose or suggest assignment of an address based on the MAC address of the guest computer.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 and its dependent claim 12 are not anticipated by Redlich.

Claim 2

The Examiner indicated that Redlich teaches the step of utilizing an IP or ARP packet to determine the computer addresses.

Claim 2 has been clarified to recite that the assigned IP address is determined based on the IP or ARP packet. Redlich simply replaces guest's IP address with a c/o IP address that belongs to the hosting organization (column 16, lines 15-18). Redlich does not determine the assigned IP address based on the IP or ARP packet. In addition, claim 2 depends on amended claim 1 which is not anticipated by Redlich as discussed above.

Accordingly, amended claim 2 is not anticipated by Redlich.

Therefore, the claimed invention is patentably different from Redlich. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), stating that these claims are unpatetable over Redlich in view of US Patent No. 6,466,981 to Levy ("Levy").

As discussed above, Redlich does not disclose or suggest assignment of an address based on the MAC address of the guest computer.

Redlich states that "For the special case where the guest has a local/private IP address which does not have to be globally unique,... the guest's IP-address is used together with the guest's globally unique HW-address to identify the guest" (column 21, lines 27-32). Redlich treats this as a special case and accordingly, it would require some additional steps to determine such a special case in order to identify the guest using the HW-address. Redlich is silent as to how it is determined. Even if the guest is identified using the HW-address, Redlich's access router still simply replaces guest's IP address with the local c/o address without using the HW-address.

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Levy discloses a method that automatically configures a computer for communication with a server. Levy uses an access software application 211 stored in the computer 210 as shown in Figure 2 (column 5, lines 30-31 and lines 39-41). When the computer 210 is connected to the network 230, the access software application 211 is executed and directs the computer 210 to perform certain tasks to gain communication (column 5, lines 55-62).

Therefore, Levy teaches away from the present invention which allows the computer to access the network 104 without user initiated software as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art to combine the teachings of Redlich and Levy.

As discussed above, Levy requires a special access software application in the client computer while Redlich does not use such a special software application. Accordingly, those skilled in the art would not combine the teaching of these two references. Even if one attempts to combine them, he would use an access software application in the client computer and replaces guest's IP address with a local c/o address without using MAC addresses. Thus, he would still fail to reach the invention recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as claimed in amended claim 1 is unobvious to a person skilled in the art having regard to Redlich and Levy.

Claims 2-11 depends on amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that their parent claim 1 has been patentably distinguished over Redlich and Levy, and thus the invention claimed in claims 2-11 cannot be obtained from Redlich, whether alone or in combination with Levy. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).
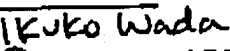
CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as claimed in claims 1-12 currently on file has been patentably distinguished over Redlich and Levy. Thus, Applicant trusts that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and early allowance of the application.

Dated: December 23, 2004

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